

REMARKS

Claims 1, and 5-14 are pending in the application. Claim 1 is in independent form and has been amended hereby. Claim 3 has been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 16 has been added. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of Claims 1 and 5-14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Further, reconsideration is respectfully requested of the objection to the drawings.

Claim 1 has been amended in part to address the issues raised in the Office Action on pages 3 and 4, that is, so that its recitation of the present invention is consistent with Fig. 2.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claim 1, and the claims depending therefrom, are clear and definite in their recitation of the present invention and meet all requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Further, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is requested.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of Claims 1 and 5-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,813,147 (“Jeong”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,969,647 (“Mical”).

Independent Claim 1 has been amended in part to recite the following features of the present invention “further comprising a button on the extended line of the curve on both sides of the casing for being operated by an index finger of the user,” and “a width of the cross section of the area, on which operating means are placed, gradually becomes narrower from a nearer side to the center to the left and right sides of the casing at both a display unit face and a rear face.” For the following reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Jeong and Mical fail to teach or suggest the aforementioned features of the presently claimed invention.

According to the embodiment of amended independent Claim 1, when the user holds the casing with both hands, the left and right index fingers are naturally placed along the curved shapes of left and right sides of the casing, respectively. Therefore, the third to fifth fingers supporting the rear face of the casing also become curved naturally and are placed along the gentle curves of the horizontally longitudinal cross section of the casing. Accordingly, the novel configuration of the casing keeps the tips of the fingers away from the lid of the optical disk drive unit. That is, the configuration of the casing reduces the gripping load on the lid of the optical disk drive unit by the third to fifth fingers when the user holds the casing with both hands.

Further, by placing the third to fifth fingers along the gentle curves slanted such that a width of the cross section of the area, on which operating means are placed, gradually becomes narrower from a nearer side to the center to the left and right sides of the casing, the user holds the casing with the left and right palms wrapping around the left and right ends of the casing. Such holding style results in an improved comfort and handling of the device. It is respectfully submitted that Jeong and Mical do not teach or suggest such structure and advantages thereof.

Moreover, according to the embodiment of new Claim 16, notches are provided on bottom left and right corners of the casing. Such notches support a base of a thumb of the user's hand gripping the casing. Therefore, the base of the thumb also supports part of the weight of the casing. Such structure allows the third to fifth fingers to easily curve to support the rear face of the casing, and the weight which the third to fifth fingers need to support become lighter. Such holding style results in further improved comfort and handling of the device. It is respectfully submitted that Jeong and Mical do not teach or suggest such structure and advantages thereof.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claim 1, and the claims depending therefrom, are patentably distinct over Jeong and Mical, alone or in any possible combination, if any.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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